
New York 1771 Colonial Paper Money

2 messages

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 5:44 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Erik:

You have not heard from me for a long time and now I have an interesting matter to ask your help on.

For most of 2010 and some of 2011 I have been recovering from a fall which broke my second neck vertebra. I think I am now well and can wish you holiday greetings with the advice "DO NOT FALL". I am very lucky to be alive. In spite of it I am now a little over 100 years of age and think I might have most of my marbles.

I am being encouraged to consider participating with others in working on a sixth edition of The Early Paper Money of America. I have accumulated a very large number of changes and I presume you already know of errors, needed clarifications and additions.

I presently have a separate challenge on the New York issue of Feb. 16, 1771. As you know and as Joe knew there are three separate boxed elements on each denomination. The top element has several scenes. The left side element has NEW YORK engraved on it and is read toward the outside except on the 10 L where the same box element is rotated 180 degrees and reads toward the inside. The right boxed element is always in the same position. No set type or ornament is in any box and each of the boxes must be a separate independent lead casting backed with wood placed and locked in the chase.

I have studied some of the alleged counterfeits and the boxed elements seem to be identical to those on the genuine. This indicates that the alleged counterfeiters were using genuine casting elements or castings made from the original engraving. The only differences between the alleged counterfeits and the genuine are the style, position and order of the various loose type insertions in the type set part of the bills. It is possible that single type can come loose in printing and fall out of the chase and when noticed put back or replaced.

Another unusual observation is that all denominations are alleged to have been counterfeited or had type come loose. No other colonial paper money issue ever seems to have had all its denominations counterfeited.

The newspapers of the time seem to have talked about counterfeits but were not specific.

Would you be nice enough to have photocopies or other full size images of all denominations of all examples of that issue in your collection and send them to me..

Your opinion as to any of these matters is most welcome as well as any comments or questions..

My telephone number is 314 727 0850. Eric P. Newman, 6450 Cecil Ave., St. Louis MO 63105 is my address.

If there is anything numismatic I can do for you or your organization please do not hesitate to ask. I sincerely miss Joe and his advice and helpfulness over 50 years was outstanding. My best to you. Eric (Is my name misspelled? My grandmother's name was Fredericka and was called Rica and I was named after her)

To: "EricNumis@aol.com" <EricNumis@aol.com>

Thu, Dec 22, 2011 at 9:49 AM

Hi Eric,

It's great to hear from you! In fact, I had been thinking about you recently – just the other day, a package arrived with the latest, splendid medal issued by the Rittenhouse Society, graced, of course, by your portrait on the obverse! What a superb piece! Congratulations on all fronts.

I am sorry to hear of your fall, and am pleased that you are well on the mend! As I intend to live to see my 100th birthday, that's good advice, which I shall try my hardest to adhere to.

As an ex-pat New York City kid, my loyalties will always lie there. Thus, the 16 February 1771 NY issue is one of my favorites, especially since I share initials with the engraver! Since I am always eager to fill numismatic researcher's requests – especially those coming from St. Louis – here's what I'm putting in the mail to you today;

- Good zeroxes of Colonial Williamsburg's 7 notes, at 100% and blown up to 220%
- Good zeroxes of my 3 personally-owned notes, also at 100% and blown up to 220%
- The flip insert from my Eric Newman / RS medal

Here's an interesting point to ponder. In the Tryon Papers (as Gov of NC) there's a transcript of a trial of a couple of fellows, once in the employ of James Davis, for counterfeiting £5 notes of North Carolina's December 1768 issue. As I recall (I can get the exact reference easily, but it's not in front of me right now), Davis testified that a particular cut of a flower used on the counterfeits came either "from his shop" or "Williamsburg." Thus, it seems to me that many counterfeits may have emanated from either the official printers themselves or their employees, with varying amounts of treachery and theft of tooling!

Since you offered, there is something I'd like to ask of you. Would you be kind enough to autograph & inscribe the reverse of my medal insert for me? Of course, I'll be happy to pay the return postage.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch when you have received the materials & have had a chance to look at the copies. In the meantime, I'll study the abovementioned 10 notes so that we may have a useful conversation then.

With best wishes for the holidays & the New Year!

Erik

Erik Goldstein

Curator of Mechanical Arts and Numismatics

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Box 1776

Williamsburg, VA 23187

USA

(757) 565-8956



From: EricNumis@aol.com [mailto:EricNumis@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 5:45 PM

To: Goldstein, Erik

Subject: New York 1771 Colonial Paper Money

[Quoted text hidden]